

Utah's Energy Security

Utah is uniquely positioned to meet our future energy needs. A clean, diverse, secure mix of energy resources is essential to maintain Utah's quality of life and economic development. We have the energy resources, people, and technological capabilities to accomplish this goal. We must develop the clean and renewable resources to meet the energy needs of our citizens and businesses and sustain our economy, meet environmental challenges of air quality and water quality, as well as climate change and greenhouse gas reductions.

Foundation for Success

Improving **Energy Efficiency** is the first step in meeting our need for energy security. Governor Huntsman called on Utahns to be 20 percent more efficient in their use of energy by 2015. The Governor and the Legislature focused first on state building and fleets, setting the example for business and individuals.

Governor Huntsman, in conjunction with the Legislature, charged state agencies to:

- Improve **energy efficiency** in new and retrofitted **state (and higher education) building**
- Improve **energy efficiency** in **state vehicle fleets**, and by example, encouraged the private sector and citizens.

Utah will need all of its energy resources, **new Renewable Energy Sources** and **Clean Fossil Fuel** production, to meet its energy needs. The Governor has also recognized the need for transmission to bring these new resources to markets.

- The Governor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change (BRAC) provided the roadmap for new renewable energy, as well as recommendations for clean fossil fuel resources.
- The Phase I of the Utah Renewable Energy Zones (UREZ) report has identified concentrations of wind, solar and geothermal resources for development exploration and development. Phase II will evaluate transmission needs.
- At the Regional level, Western Governors have completed the first phase of the Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ) report, also identifying resources in preparation for defining potential large-scale transmission to bring resources to the grid.
- Through the USTAR program (see Governor's Office of Economic Development), carbon capture and sequestration technologies have been identified and will be tested to reduce the impacts of coal and fossil fuel energy production.

In his State of the State in 2009, the Governor proclaimed the I-15 Corridor in Utah a CNG-corridor, recognizing the important of CNG-fueled vehicles in meeting Utah's transportation energy security. Utah has 29 existing, publicly-available sites for CNG vehicle fueling, and the number is increasing.

In order to meet energy security and economic development goals, Utah must also reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions**.

- Utah joined The Climate Registry to support GHG emissions reporting and early reductions.
- Utah participates in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). In September 2008, WCI proposed a plan to accomplish GHG reductions through a cap and trade program. The most effective process for GHG reductions will be national legislation for a carbon reduction program. WCI will help demonstrate what works for Utah and the West.

- As Chair of Western Governors' Association, Governor Huntsman has emphasized the importance of water conservation and management policy and global response to climate change through shared energy policy and technology.

Legislation

During the 2008 and 2009 legislative sessions, a number of key changes in Utah law will facilitate new energy resource development and utilization, including:

- Renewable Portfolio Standard, providing 20 percent of Utah's electricity supply from clean and renewable energy sources by 2025,
- Improving Net Metering,
- Incentivizing Alternative Fuel Vehicles,
- Providing tax credits for industrial scale solar,
- Supporting renewable energy technology training,
- Establishing Renewable Energy Resource Zones and associated tax credits, and
- Establishing a Transmission Authority to facilitate bringing resources to the marketplace.
- Support Carbon Capture and Sequestration for coal-fired electricity generation.

Next Steps

New renewable energy exploration and production is charging the economy, especially in rural Utah. More energy efficient homes, businesses, and vehicles lead the marketplace. Working across government and the private sector, Utah will focus on affordable energy, a sustainable economy, energy security, and reduced emission.